

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

EB-11 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /097 W
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P R 261455 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6574

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR NO US

SUBJ: REACTIONS IN NORWAY TO KISSINGER NEW YORK SPEECH

REF: (A) USIS OSLO 251154 Z APRIL (NOTAL) (B) USIS OSLO 261204 Z
APRIL (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. NORWEGIAN REACTIONS TO THE KISSINGER SPEECH ON
APRIL 24 ARE OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE, THIS REACTION DILUTED ONLY
MILDLY BY: (A) SOME INITIAL CONFUSION AS BETWEEN THE "ATLANTIC
CHARTER" AND THE "NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY;" (B) UNCERTAINTY ABOUT
THE LONG-RANGE IMPACT OF THE KISSINGER PROPOSALS; AND, (C) SOME
ANXIETY, ESPECIALLY AMONG THOSE WHO FAILED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO
GET NORWAY INTO THE COMMON MARKET, ABOUT NORWAY'S FUTURE IN A
EUROPE WHICH INCREASINGLY NUMBERS "NINE", AT LEAST AS SEEN FROM
THE EASTERN SEABOARD OF THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER AN INITIAL DELAY AS A RESULT OF THE LONG EASTER WEEKEND,
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NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF DR. KISSINGER'S NEW YORK SPEECH WAS BOTH HEAVY AND FAVORABLE IN TONE ON APRIL 25 AND 26. REACTIONS IN OFFICIAL AND POLITICAL CIRCLES HAVE BEEN EQUALLY POSITIVE.

2. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED ON APRIL 25, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID ON THE BASIS OF A PRELIMINARY READING OF THE SPEECH THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT " WELCOMES THIS INITIATIVE AND LOOKS FORWARD TO AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATLANTIC COOPERATION IN THE 1970' S." THE STATEMENT ALSO NOTED WITH APPROVAL THE " IMPRESSION" WHICH THE SPEECH CREATED " OF A POSITIVE AND STRONG AMERICAN INTEREST IN MAINTAINING AND PURSUING THE CLOSE COOPERATION CONCERNING ECONOMY, POLITICS, AND SECURITY POLICY THAT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR". FINALLY, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY MENTIONING, AGAIN WITH OBVIOUS APPROVAL, THAT " IT ALSO TRANSPIRES FROM THE SPEECH THAT THE UNITED STATES ... WILL NOT MAKE UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS OF ITS ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE ..."

3. PRESS REACTION ON APRIL 25 REFLECTED CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE TERM " ATLANTIC CHARTER", WHICH IS NOT WELL KNOWN IN NORWAY. MANY CONFUSED IT WITH " NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY", CONCLUDING WITH CONSERVATIVE MORGENBLADET, THAT THE SPEECH MEANT " THE END OF NATO AS WE HAVE KNOWN IT". JAMES RESTON'S COMMENTARY, CARRIED ON APRIL 25 BY AFTENPOSTEN, COUPLED WITH RATHER EXTENSIVE CLARIFICATIONS APPEARING IN AFTENPOSTEN AND THE LABOR PARTY'S ARBEIDERBLADET TODAY, SHOULD HELP IDENTIFY WHAT WAS MEANT.

4. WE SENSE, IN THE REACTIONS TO DAZY, EAGERNESS TO SEE THE AMERICAN PROPOSALS AS THEY UNFOLD IN GREATER DETAIL GO AND WE NOTE THAT AFTENPOSTEN'S NORWAYS' LARGEST DAILY, AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE CONSERVATIVE BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT, SEES THE PROPOSALS AS " A CONTINUATION OF THE PROCESS OF FOREIGN POLITICAL READJUSTMENT WHICH REACHED A HIGH POINT IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISITS TO MOSCOW AND CHINA LAST YEAR." THE PAPER COMMENDED THE ADMINISTRATION FOR SEEKING EUROPE'S COUNSEL, " IN THE SPIRIT CHARACTERISTIC OF THE FIRST ATLANTIC CHARTER."

5. ONE NOTE WHICH HAS BEEN STRUCK HAS A PECULIARLY NORWEGIAN RING TO IT AND REFLECTS CONTINUING ANXIETY OVER THE FUTURE AS UNCLASSIFIED

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A RESULT OF NORWAY'S DECISION LAST FALL TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE COMMON MARKET. WRITERS WHO FAVORED NORWAY'S ACCESSION SEE IN THE KISSINGER SPEECH OVERTONES WHICH SUGGEST TO THEM GROWING NORWEGIAN ISOLATION IN A EUROPE WHICH INCREASINGLY TAKES THE SHAPE OF THE COMMON MARKET IN AMERICAN EYES. WHILE THIS SENTIMENT IS DOUBTLESS GENUINE, IT ALSO HAS THE EFFECT OF FULFILLING THEIR MOST DIRE PROPHECIES DURING THE GRUELING

COMMON MARKET DEBATE HERE LAST YEAR, GIVING IT AN " I TOLD YOU
SO" QUALITY.
CROWE

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